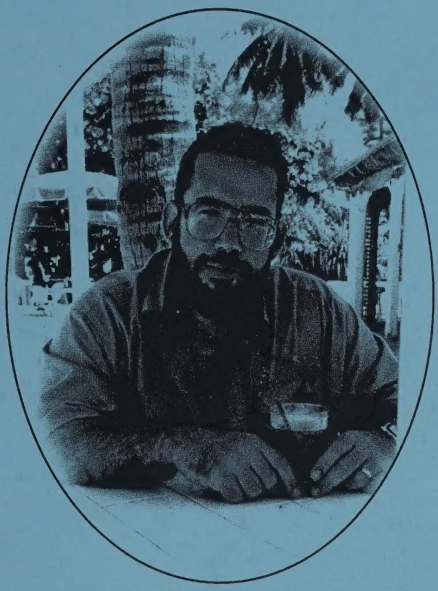
A Memorial Service
to Celebrate the Life of



Mario Benedict Valdes

April 3, 1953 – September 14, 2007

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Shove Memorial Chapel
Colorado College
September 21, 2007 • 1:00 P.M.

Mario Valdes

...was born in Havana, Cuba on April 3, 1953. His father was a dealer of import/export domestics and the family moved to New York City when Mario was a 2-year old. He grew up in Brooklyn and Queens and attended Brooklyn Technical High School.

In third grade, Mario determined he had three goals in life: to be a New York City cab driver, to design houses and to run a radio station. After briefly living in Miami, 19 year-old Mario returned to New York and drove a yellow cab in Manhattan for a year, his most famous passenger being Katherine Hepburn.

Mario attended Oklahoma State University to study architecture and moved to Denver in the mid 1970s to begin a career as an architectural designer. For several years he designed beautiful custom homes and offices for clients in Denver, Perry Park, Monument and Colorado Springs.

A music collector, Mario started at radio station KRCC in 1979. He became the station's manager and first paid employee in 1980 and first full-time employee in 1983. He left the station in 2006. As station manager he created the blueprint of what KRCC is today. He was instrumental in bringing National Public Radio to Colorado Springs and all the listening areas throughout southern Colorado.

Mario was married to wife Donna for 18 years; their son, Adam was born in 1986. Mario enjoyed giving Adam the unique opportunity of meeting such personalities as Johnny Winter, Lyle Lovett and Randy Newman at the concerts that KRCC produced in the early 1990s.

A self-proclaimed "political junkie," Mario thoroughly enjoyed the intricacies, philosophies and personalities of politics. As a naturalized United States citizen, he held close to his heart the personal rights and freedom of his country.

Mario's favorite peaceful pastime was fishing. He particularly enjoyed the many times he spent fishing with his family and friends at 11 Mile Reservoir and with his son at Lake Powell, Utah.

Mario was preceded in death by his mother Gilda Valdes and grandparents Jacqueline and Jean Gall. He is survived by his son, Adam Valdes; his sisters Joyce Skowron and Frances Collado; his nephews Luis Hernandez and Michael Collado, his niece Monique Collado, and his father Mario. He is also survived by many dear friends including his KRCC "family" and Donna (Valdes) Sheloski.

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Mario Valdes

Music . . . . . .Mario's favorites

Coming together . . . . . .Bruce Coriell

Song . . . . . .Manhattan/Dinah Washington

Remembering a life . . . . . .Barry Sarchett
Pat Bass (read by Vicky Gregor)
Delaney Utterback (read by Mike Procell)
Mike Procell
Donna Valdes Sheloski

Song . . . . . .On a Clear Day/Frank Sinatra

Honoring a life . . . . . .Bruce Coriell

Blessing . . . . . .Bruce Coriell

Departing Song . . . . . .Broken/Jack Johnson

Music . . . . . .Mario's favorites

After the service, you are invited to a reception at the Gates Common Room in Palmer Hall, hosted by the Colorado College Communications Office.

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Thanks to the Picnic Basket for catering.

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Those who wish to remember Mario with a donation may make a contribution to the:
Mario Valdes Memorial Fund
c/o American National Bank,
102 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903

"Your work is to discover your work and then with all your heart to give yourself to it."

--Buddha